The A. F. of L. Weekly News Service gives a brief summary of important matters affecting labor, occurring in the industrial, legislative and judicial fields, and such other information that will benefit the trade union movement.

AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR

WEEKLY NEWS SERVICE

Entered as second-class matter September 20, 1912, at the Post Office at Washington, D.C., under the Act of August 24, 1912. Acceptance for mailing at special rate of postage provided for in Sec. 1103, Act of October 3, 1917, authorized July 11, 1918.

It is never treason to tell the truth.

VOL. 16, NO. 8. WASHINGTON, D. C., SATURDAY, MAY 8, 1926. WHOLE NO. 787.

Green Comments On British General Strike

Washington, May 8.—The general strike of Great Britain has created a most grave situation and one which causes a feeling of deep concern in the minds of all thinking people, said President Green.

"This is the first time a general strike has been resorted to in Great Britain. The working people in the United States will observe with keen interest this experimentation in the use of the sympathetic strike as a means of bringing about the settlement of a wage controversy in a single industry.

"The great danger involved in a general or sympathetic strike is the possibility that the original grievances which are the primary causes of the strike and which are, in this case, meritorious, may be lost sight of because of the charge that the general strike is a challenge to government and to the existence of government. The issues of the strike become obscured and the public mind becomes confused. Public opinion, in Great Britain, might suppose the workers in their demand for the redress of just grievances whereas it would solidly support the government in its efforts to maintain control of the government.

"The American Federation of Labor is strongly committed to the policy of collective bargaining, of wage contracts and the observance of wage agreements. It will not depart from this well-established policy. It has made its greatest progress through a religious observance of contract obligations. In my opinion the organizations affiliated with the American Federation of Labor will strictly adhere to such a program.

"However, we realize that economic and industrial conditions in Great Britain differ from the economic and industrial conditions prevailing in America. In addition, under the form of organization prevailing in the different nations across the sea the organizations of the workers in each country may determine their own policies. The organizations of Continental Europe and Great Britain are affiliated with the International Federation of Trade Unions, with headquarters at Amsterdam, Holland. The American Federation of Labor is not affiliated with this International Federation of Trade Unions.

"The American Federation of Labor believes the miners of Great Britain are justified in their demands that they be paid a decent living wage. We believe their grievances are well founded and should be speedily redressed. We express the hope that the spirit of fair dealing and judgment which have always characterized the British people in every crisis will so assert themselves as to bring about an immediate settlement of the causes of this strike and to avert the dire consequences with which the people of the nation are threatened."

High Points Of Strike

Threatened by a general strike last year to aid British coal miners, the Baldwin government voted a subsidy of $160,000,000 to the coal owners to maintain existing wage scales. A Royal Coal Commission was appointed to investigate the coal industry.

No action wastaken on the commission's report, two features of which were objectionable to the miners.

The wage agreement and the subsidy expired May 1. The coal owners demanded district agreements because of varying conditions. The miners replied that this "will pit one district against another." They refused to lower wage or increase hours.

The government considers the general strike a challenge and is putting into effect all of the powers of dictatorship granted under the king's proclamation of a state of emergency.

CARPENTERS RAISE WAGES

Kingston, Ontario, May 8.—The new wage rate for carpenters will be 85 cents an hour from June 1 until March 31, 1927, and 90 cents from April 1, 1927, until March 31, 1928.

JUDGE NOT EMPOWERED TO ENFORCE LAW

Answering impeachment charges before the United States Senate, Federal Judge English said he used "forceful" language in addressing certain officials concerning the administration of justice during the shop men's strike to "maintain law and order."

Wherein does the Federal Constitution or any state constitution empower a judge "to maintain law and order"?

Is Judge English aware that our government rests on three co-ordinated branches; that the duty of the judiciary is to define and interpret law; that the enforcement of law is assigned to another branch?

Logically, if a judge can "maintain law and order" in strike times, why not at other times? If he can set aside Federal and state constitutions today, why not tomorrow?

Why limit his activity to workers? Why not extend his usurpation and apply his powers to every law-enforcement agency?

Expediency to break a strike is a costly price for undermining the Constitution.

Those who defend the injunction judge are blind to the ugly example they set.

HARD TIMES DUE TO LOW WAGES; FAILURE TO BUY CLOSES MILLS

Washington, May 8.—There is nothing mysterious about the reason for hard times, says the Weekly Bulletin of the National Catholic Welfare Conference, Department of Social Action.

If the present business slacking extends to "what in older language was called 'hard times,' it will not be unusual," says the Bulletin.

"Hard times coming again and again is a certainty in the United States. This is not due to bad weather, to flooding rain falls or to drought, to late springs and early falls or to scorching heat and searing winds. Bad times here are not due to inability to produce goods. They are due to the inability of the people of the United States and the world to buy the goods produced.

"They are due to the inability to sell these goods. The consumers do not buy. This does not mean that the consumers suddenly turn ascetics. The consumers do not voluntarily decide to take up fasting and abstinence. They fast and abstain sometimes to the point of starvation. But they do so because they haven't the money to buy the things they need or want.

"Apart from the foreign market, which in late years we have come to rely upon very greatly, various sections of American people are so handicapped that they can not buy the tremendous quantity of goods United States produces.

"Farmers are still but slightly relieved and the prices of their products are going down again. City wage workers produce an enormous amount of goods, but do not receive enough money back to buy their share of the goods; possibly half of them do not even receive a living wage.

"Most salaried workers are in a similar position. Small business men are being crushed by trusts and chain stores. Among investors and stockholders, certain of them are highly privileged and get the higher rate of return.

"The chief trouble is that our industrial and agricultural system turns out an enormous amount of goods, but in the producing of it the great majority do not receive from their wages enough back their share of what they produce."

"LABOR DAY GATHERINGS INSPIRE WAGE EARNERS"

—PRESIDENT GREEN

Washington, May 8.—In a stirring appeal to all central bodies, President Green calls on these organizations to begin arranging for a record Labor day observance the first Monday in September.

"It is a serious mistake" for workers to believe that time, effort and money expended in labor demonstrations, parades, meetings and addresses is wasted, said President Green.

"It must not be forgotten that no human movement remains stationary," he said. "The labor movement must either go forward, or must lag behind. The spirit of fellowship is the life of the labor movement. All life must be nourished, or it dies. The yearly gathering on Labor day, the contact of worker with worker, the enthusiasm of all working together in a demonstration of the power and might of labor as a civic as well as an economic force, stimulates fellowship, brotherhood, good will; renews inspiration; gives a deeper insight into the meaning and scope of the labor movement."

In urging labor parades, the A. F. of L. executive said that when men and women march shoulder to shoulder they typify impressively the purposes and unity of the labor movement.

"Such parades," he said, "are an educational avenue by which public thought and opinion may be more forcefully directed to the consideration of the aspirations, hopes and principles of the labor movement.

"By celebrating Labor day in a proper manner, in accord with labor ideals, there will be secured for the labor movement added prestige and understanding that will help the cause of labor in all its relations.

"It is my earnest hope that in every city, town and hamlet Labor day, 1926, will be an epoch-making day, one long to be remembered."

FAR EAST LACKS IRON; CAN'T CONTROL WORLD

San Francisco, May 8.—Conquering hordes of the yellow races will never sweep westward and destroy Occidental civilization, because the Orientals lack commercial minerals which are essential to an industrialized and militarized peoples.

Prof. C. L. Keith, University of Wisconsin geologist, is authority for the above statement, following a 10-year geological survey of Far East countries.

Unless a nation has coal, iron ore, copper and oil it can not have world-conquering aspirations, said Prof. Keith. Eastern Asia, the Philippines, East Indies and Japan altogether contain but 5 per cent of the world's copper, 1 per cent of its iron, 5 per cent of its coal and 3 per cent of its oil, he said.

In contrast to this the countries bordering on the North Atlantic have 90 per cent of the world's coal, 98 per cent of its iron ore and 65 per cent of its copper.

Iron ore in China does not warrant the investment of capital to build a great iron and steel industry, said Prof. Keith. The same is true in Japan. Nearly one-half of that country's iron reserves are in one mine and her total, including Korea, is not 100,000 tons. She is rapidly busting her coal faster than other nations and is turning to water power.

"From the standpoint of mineral resources," continued Prof. Keith, "we may regard the Far East countries not as challenging western supremacy but as calling for our sympathetic co-operation in their contests with unsatisfactory environmental conditions."

PORTO RICO PROBE IS URGED; WORKERS IDLE AND HUNGRY

Washington, May 8.—A picture of hunger, unemployment, absentee landlordism and the illegal monopolization of land in Porto Rico was painted before a senate committee by Santiago Iglesias, secretary of the Pan-American Federation of Labor.

The committee is considering the Pittman-Sabath joint resolution, which would create a joint congressional commission to investigate Porto Rico.

Mr. Iglesias placed little value on the proposal that the governor of Porto Rico be elected by the people of that island, instead of being appointed by the president of the United States.

"The ills from which Porto Rico suffers are deep-rooted," said Mr. Iglesias. "The island is dominated by a handful of capitalists who control the economic and political life. These capitalists do not live in Porto Rico and they have no interest in the island, except to extract profits. They have seized the best defiance and most productive agricultural workers have been driven onto the highways. More than 500,000 people, one-third of the island's population, are unemployed. The only remedy favored by those responsible for these appalling conditions is that the Porto Ricans migrate.

"More than 60 per cent of the people produced in the island are taken to other countries. Interest rates range from 12 to 24 per cent and the cost of living is 20 per cent higher than in the United States. Forty per cent of the population die illiterate, while the starved peons are ravaged by tuberculosis."

Mr. Iglesias said that if a congressional committee probes Porto Rico the world will be shocked by the disclosures.

He quoted reports from the United States Health Service, the Child Labor Bureau, the Department of Commerce, Bureau of Insular Affairs, the National Catholic Welfare Conference and memorials signed by many thousands of Porto Ricans, citizens of the United States, showing that despite the wonderful commercial progress, credit to Porto Rico, poverty and misery, with resultant immorality and degradation prevail in that island.

CRITICISM AIDS POPULAR RULE

By HON. WILLIAM H. KING
United States Senator from Utah

A criticism of persons in official life is not to be construed as an attack upon them personally, upon their integrity or their character.

I have often felt constrained to criticize opinions of the Supreme Court of the United States and of other high judicial tribunals.

Judges and members of the Interstate Commerce Commission, as well as members of the Tariff and Federal Trade Commissions, as all other officials of the government, are human; their judgments are not infallible; they make many mistakes, and some of their decisions do not harmonize with the law or that fine spirit of justice which should be the basis of human conduct.

Impeccability is not assured to individuals because they are clothed with official robes; nor are their intellectual limitations removed or their erring judgments perfected because of official position.

Criticism is a wholesome thing, and officials, whether in the legislative branch or in the executive branch of the government, must meet its sharp edge. If the criticism is unjust, it does not harm them.

Sometimes criticism is most wholesome and beneficial to the man upon whom it is directed. Examples are not unknown where the attitude of public officials has been changed because of intelligent and honest, though frank and vigorous, criticisms of their official acts.

UPHEAVALS IN TEXTILE INDUSTRY CAUSED BY FAILURE TO ORGANIZE

New York, May 8.—Thomas F. McMahon, president of the United Textile Workers of America, has again appealed to Passaic textile strikers to affiliate with the bona fide trade union movement and present an undivided front to low-wage employers.

He points out that the continued refusal of these workers to organize in stable trade unions has been followed by fruitless upheavals that are directed by opponents of the American trade union movement.

"We do not forget Lawrence in 1912," says President McMahon. "We do not forget Paterson in 1913. We cannot forget Philadelphia in 1917 and the cloth weavers of that time, when so-called strikers mixed with deserters from the A. F. of L., led the workers and left them to their own resources when the battle was over.

"The broad silk weavers, the dyers and thousands of other workers in Paterson have tried these sporadic strikes time and time again. After the battle, conditions in these occupations, as shown today, are worse than prior to the walkouts. The leaders of these sporadic revolutions know no lasting benefit can come to the workers except through affiliation with the A. F. of L.

"Under the A. F. of L. executive council and international officers of the United Textile Workers of America have told these leaders, individually and collectively, to come inside the movement.

"If a junction of the present organized forces in the industry were perfected, results could be obtained for the workers. The failure of getting together must rest somewhere. Our position is that we, the United Textile Workers of America, are the legitimate trade unionists affiliated with the A. F. of L. and the only one in our industry.

"Common sense must and will prevail. Textile employers must be shown a determination by employes, not in one section, but in all sections, if success is to be attained. To secure this unity A. F. of L. officials assure the United Textile Workers their full-hearted co-operation. State branches and central bodies are in many, many cases appealing to textile workers to join our ranks.

"The appeal, too often, falls on deaf ears. Bonafide low wages, long hours, low wages and poor working conditions result. This is followed by upheavals such as is now witnessed in Passaic, and has been witnessed in other textile centers."

LEGISLATIVE MIX-UP FACED BY CONGRESS

Washington, May 8.—It seems but yesterday that every one in the nation's capital was clamoring to have congress adjourn at an early date to permit members to prepare for the forthcoming primaries and elections.

Those hopes are fading. The insistent demand from the agricultural sections for farm relief has developed an unexpected situation and no one will predict the date of adjournment.

There are three farm proposals before congress and each one is urged by strong advocates. The Haugen bill provides for a revolving fund of $375,000,000 to aid in marketing surplus crops. Last year, before a meeting of the American Farm Bureau Federation, in Chicago, the president declared against legislation of this character.

The Tincher bill, favored by the administration, would provide money to farm co-operatives to market surplus crops. Haugen bill advocates point out that this would only apply to members of the co-operative societies. A third bill, introduced by Congressman Aswell of Louisiana, would establish a national farm marketing association. A fourth group opposes any farm legislation. This element is especially hostile to the Haugen bill, which is denounced as a subsidy.

The legislative jam is intensified by advocates of other legislation who demand action.

Several recognized administration senators have joined the farm bloc to secure farm legislation. These include avowed standpatters who a few months ago would denounce these farm-relief proposals as wild revolution.

UNION CO-OP. POLICY SUCCEEDS IN CANADA

Montreal, Quebec, May 8.—The union-management-co-operative policy, known as the "B. & O. Plan," is successful on the Canadian National Railway System. This plan provides for periodical conferences between the management and representatives of organized shop men.

At the recent convention of the C. N. R. Federation of Shop Men the plan was unanimously approved. A committee consisting of one delegate from each system federation, now being applied, reported that the relationship between management and employes is improved; many grievances are lessened and membership in the organizations increasing. The organization formed the basis of the plan to all shops and branches of the service.

The difference between this plan and the company "union" is: The workers select their representatives without interference by the management, the company makes an honest effort to co-operative and remove causes of dissatisfaction, instead of using its power to silence protests.

JOHN A. VOLL'S MEMORY HONORED BY GLASS MEN

Zanesville, Ohio, May 8.—The Glass Bottle Blowers' Association of the United States and Canada will dedicate a monument in this city on May 30 to the memory of its late president, John A. Voll.

He served as president of the association for several years and was president of the Ohio State Federation of Labor. He took an active part in the entire trade union movement. The representatives of labor will assemble in his home town to perpetuate the memory of a life devoted to the common weal.

RENEW AGREEMENT

Toronto, Ontario, March 8.—Street car men have renewed their agreement with the Toronto Transportation Commission. The increased

KILLING CONVICTS PART OF LEASE PLAN

Birmingham, Ala., May 8.—A grand jury that is seeking responsibility for the death of James Knox, a convict in the Flat Top mine, has secured evidence that other convict miners died the past year because of brutal treatment.

Prisoners bared their bodies to the grand jury and exhibited welts and cuts inflicted by "straw bosses." The convicts said these "straw bosses" attempted to start a strike of prisoners when Warden Davis was suspended from duty pending the Knox investigation. Instead of agreeing to strike, the convicts chased the "straw bosses" from the mines. The convicts said they used dynamite to drive from the mines other "straw bosses" who attempted to shield prison authorities.

WAR AGAINST CHILD LABOR

Calipatria, Cal., May 8.—Hindu and American cotton growers in the Imperial valley have united to resist enforcement of the state child labor law.

State Labor Commissioner Mathewson heads the drive against these exploiters, many of whom have been fined, with jail sentences as alternatives. The Hindus are liable to deportation.

BIG STRIKE ENDS

New York, May 8.—A strike of 2,500 steamfitters, which started March 29, has ended through compromise. Wages will be $12 a day until December 31, 1927. Rates for helpers have also been increased.

TEXTILE STRIKERS ASK INVESTIGATION

Washington, May 8.—Members of Congress from the New England states were urged to demand a congressional investigation of the strike against the American Thread Company at Willimantic, Conn. The request was made by Thomas F. McMahon, president of the United Textile Workers, and a committee representing the 2,500 strikers.

This strike has been on for more than a year. State police are in charge of the town, despite the workers' protests that law is being observed.

The company is a subsidiary of the English Sewing Cotton Thread Company of England. It has attempted to cut wages although it has declared a 10 per cent dividend on its full capitalization and placed $1,380,000 in its reserve fund.

"During the 10-year period ending December 31, 1924," said President McMahon, "the company has paid dividends of 250 per cent in cash and stock dividends. The total surplus of the company is $14,000,000, nearly equalling its entire capitalization which is approximately $15,000,000, including bonds."

POLITICS INJURES CO-OP. MOVEMENT

Worcester, Mass., May 8.—At the conference of Eastern States co-operators, held in this city, delegates expressed regret "that political differences are introduced into co-operative societies to become a cause of discord."

The greatest friction of this kind, it was stated, has developed between the Socialist and the Workers' Communist party elements. Efforts have been made by certain leaders in both parties to create a "united co-operative front."

The conference declared that the co-operative movement is impaired because of these divisions.

WANT SENATE ABOLISHED

Ottawa, Ontario, May 8.—Canadian trade unionists favor abolition of the Dominion Senate as a non-elective body and urge legislation that would check the vetoing of laws passed by elected representatives of the people.

The workers also urge abolition of appeals to the Privy Council of Great Britain and favor the Supreme Court of Canada as the highest court of appeal.

These recommendations were included in labor's legislative program presented to the Prime Minister by officials of the Trades and Labor Congress of Canada.

RIGHTS ARE DENIED UNDER "YELLOW DOG"

New Bedford, Mass., May 8.—"The individual contract is used by unscrupulous employers to compel workers to surrender their rights," said Charles L. Reed, educational director of the Salem Central Labor Union, in a lecture before the local Central Labor Union.

This contract is called the "yellow dog." Its use is quite general in anti-union coal fields, and has been upheld by the United States Supreme Court. Under its provisions an employe agrees not to join a trade union during his term of employment with the company with whom he has signed the "yellow dog."

"This contract," said Mr. Reed, "is used to force workers out of trade unions and to prevent them from becoming members. It is forced upon workers under economic pressure. It ties the worker to his job, compels him to surrender his legal right and is enforced contrary to the state law of Massachusetts, which provides:

"No person, himself or by his agent, shall coerce or compel a person into a written or oral agreement not to join or become a member of a labor organization as a condition of his securing employment or continuing in the employment of such a person.'

"Under the sacred right of contract," continued Mr. Reed, "courts have enjoined unions from interfering with workers who have signed individual contracts. Thus the individual contract prevents the voluntary association of the workers to improve their conditions.

"In other words, in order to hold his job he is required to sign a contract that he will not take any collective action with fellow employes to protect conditions of employment and the union is powerless to interfere."

DOHENY'S OIL LEASE BEFORE HIGH COURT

Washington, May 8.—The Elk Hills oil lease, which Edward L. Doheny secured from Secretary of the Interior Fall, wends its weary way through the courts.

The lease was annulled by a California Federal district court, and now the United States Supreme Court has ordered that Doheny's appeal be heard October 4. In urging an early date for the appeal the government held the value of the oil lands would be seriously impaired, if not entirely destroyed, by undue delay.

VETERANS ARE URGED TO RENEW INSURANCE

Washington, May 8.—The United States Veterans' Bureau has issued an urgent appeal to soldiers of the World War to file application for reinstatement and conversion of wartime insurance. Less than two months remain for these veterans to secure this favorable insurance. Application should be made to the Veterans' Bureau in this city or to regional offices. Information may be secured from postmasters or other federal officials or from any post of the American Legion.

JUDGE CONDEMNS SHIRKING CITIZENS

Washington, May 8.—Reformers, professional politicians and citizens who fail to realize their duties of citizenship, were criticised by Chief Justice Floyd E. Thompson of the Illinois Supreme Court in an address to the Civic Service Institute.

"A distinct tendency in this age," the jurist said, "is to claim the political rights of citizenship without accepting the attendent moral obligations.

"There seems to be an idea among some of our social and political reformers that if the political mechanism were good enough the citizen would be relieved of any responsibility of running the government," he said. "They are continually tinkering with the machinery, but give little attention to the mainthing.

"To say that character can not be placed or kept in public office is to say that the American people are incapable of self-government. The citizen is doing his full duty who does not help solve every-day problems of government, but when the moment some reverse of fortune befalls, the constant citizen comes forth to criticise and condemn.

"As long as politics is a 'game' the professional will always have the advantage over the amateur. As long as the unselfish, public-spirited citizen takes an active interest in politics only when conditions become so rotten that the stench stifles him we can expect the public service to be what the minority who continually play the political game make it."

UNEMPLOYMENT FUND SMASHED BY BOSSES

New York, May 8.—The unemployment fund of the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union and employers has been smashed by the latter, and the union has ordered that workers accept the employers' terms.

The plan has been in operation one year, following the threat of a general strike for improved conditions. The employers agreed to pay two-thirds and the workers one-third. To date the workers have paid $146,000, or nearly two-thirds, and the employers but $88,000.

The latest violation of their pledged word forced the union to abandon collections.

ALL WAGE LABOR WELCOME TO UNIONS

By WILLIAM GREEN
President American Federation of Labor

All men and women who toil, regardless of creed, color or nationality, are eligible to the trade union movement.

Through the influence of organization the workers have made great progress along economic lines. Wages have been increased manifold. Intolerable employment conditions have been made humane. The long, exhausting hours of the work day have been reduced and the worker is permitted to spend more time with his family. He may enjoy the sunlight and the fresh air, away from the deafening industry clatter of mill, mine, workshop and factory. His hours of recreation enable him to read and study.

The educational facilities available make it possible for him to gather knowledge and learning. In the councils of his organization he finds association with his fellow men. He becomes a social factor and his interest in civic and political affairs is quickened and intensified. His mind becomes alert and his reasoning powers are awakened. He is a force in the community, a better citizen and a more efficient workman.

FINDS AUTOMOBILE AIDS RAIL TRAFFIC

Kansas City, May 8.—The importance of the automobile industry is so great that the railways gain much more than the freight traffic it gives than they lose from the freight and passenger business it takes away, said Ralph Budd, president of the Great Northern Railway, in an address here.

"Compared with the railroad train," he said, "the bus can give service at more frequent intervals because each unit of service is small and may be operated cheaply in comparison to the cost of operating a train. A bus can be run every two hours in every direction from 8 a. m. to 6 p. m. for the cost of one train in each direction, say morning and evening. And this more frequent better service suits the needs of the average rural community."

UNIONS TO ASSIST LEATHER WORKERS

Washington, May 8.—In a circular letter to the trade union movement, President Green urges workers to assist the United Leather Workers' International union's organizing campaign. This union has jurisdiction over harness and saddlery, travelers and leather novelty, tannery, machinery belt, sporting goods, fancy leather goods and pocketbook workers.

Detailed information may be secured from William E. Bryan, general president of the international, Walsh building, Kansas City, Mo.

DEFEAT COSSACK BILL

Louisville, Ky., May 8.—Trade unionists are jubilant over the defeat of a Cossack bill in the state legislature.

BAKING PROBE CHECKED; WITNESSES ARE FREE

Washington, May 8.—The Federal Trade Commission is temporarily restrained from probing the milling and baking industry, ordered two years ago. The court order was issued by Justice Siddons, at the request of the Millers' National Federation of Chicago.

It was admitted that the probe is delayed only three months but the millers win a far more important point. Their witnesses will be released from subpoenas and the Federal Trade Commission will have the job of looking for them again.

PLUMBERS SUSPEND WORK

Lockport, N. Y., May 8.—Plumbers in this city have suspended work to enforce a $10 wage rate. Employers in nearby cities pay this wage. Lockport plumbers have received $8 for two years.

CARPENTERS ON STRIKE

New Haven, Conn., May 8.—More than 500 carpenters in this city and Bridgeport are on strike because of wage differences.